

# WVC VIBE



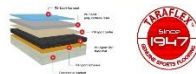
“The official newsletter of the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference”

The 2018 WVC Season is rapidly approaching. Teams have been busy holding tryouts, practices, and competing in fall tournaments in preparation for another banner year representing their respective universities and the best collegiate club conference in the nation. This season will feature 20 men’s teams (broken down into three divisions) and 24 women’s team (two divisions). Competition will heat up once again in both the playdate and tradition dual match formats. New this year, the WVC will play host to the “Midwest D2 Invitational” at the Milwaukee Sting Center (Menomonee Falls, WI) February 17-18, 2018. The first of its kind tournament offers an opportunity for elite NCVF Division II schools to compete, outside of their conference, under one roof and will provide a clearer picture for ranking the national tournament.

The WVC season will wrap up with the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Wisconsin Volleyball Conference State Championships April 6-7, 2018 at the Milwaukee Sting Center. In addition to teams battling it out on the court there will also be the annual awards ceremony. The weekend will be highlighted by the Hall of Fame induction ceremony where the conference will honor and welcome new members to its elite group of decorated players/coaches.



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## 2018 Season Preview (By School and Team)

**Carroll University** – The Men's team returns 8 players and has 4 first year players. They lost six players to graduation including all conference outside hitters Dillon Hock and Quentin Lamers. Looking to fill the void in the lineup will be middle hitter Mike Pitcher and first year right side hitter Clay Chalupsky. The Pioneers will look to Jordan Hansen, All-Conference 2017, to make big plays this year and lead them through the WVC schedule and on to Nationals in St. Louis.

The Women at Carroll will be represented for the first time ever on two teams. Sydney Lamers, is expected to have a big season and is setting the example for fellow libero Hannah Roush. Junior, Emma Somppi, is transitioning from middle blocker to setter with high hopes of getting all teammates involved. Freshman standout Zoe Albert has a powerful outside swing and outstanding court knowledge. The Women of Carroll are excited for the season and ready to begin.

**Marquette University** – The Golden Eagles are primed for a dominating run through the WVC in 2018. Marquette is giving the WVC a new look this year, combining the typical A and B teams into one powerful squad ready to take on the top competition in Division 1. Last year's A Team graduated only two seniors, setter Alex Shulski and libero Craig Belluomini, but return the high flying duo of Dani Rivera and Chandler North. There are also many new faces in the program this year, including a talented freshmen class and 12 new club members that has made this year's team one of the deepest and most talented squads Marquette has ever had. Following the leadership of a strong senior class who have eyes on WVC, MIVA, and NCVF titles, Marquette is poised and motivated for a successful season.

**Michigan Tech** - enters its third season in the WVC on the men's side after a strong performance at State Championships last season. The Huskies return 12 players led by Will Christian and club President Matthew Radloff. With the experience they return, along with the versatility of their athletes, the Huskies have their eyes set on a conference division championship title and a strong showing at nationals. Tech experienced some early season success at the Back to the Hardwood Tournament at Michigan State winning their challenge match to finish in the silver bracket.

In their first season in the WVC, the lady Huskies will be young, made up of mostly juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. They will lean on returning players to guide them as they embark on their new adventure in the WVC and look forward to the new experiences and growing as a team.

**UW-Eau Claire** - Looking to better their 2017 5th place national tournament finish the Blugolds return 6 of last year's 8 man roster. Led by heavy senior leadership and NCVF All Americans Pierce Moriarty (Setter), Sawyer Nennig (Middle Blocker), and Derek Lindquist (Middle Blocker) Eau Claire has aspirations of being national contenders once again. Rounding out Eau Claire's balanced offensive attack are senior outside hitters Aaron Kaufman, and Kyle Kurtenbach

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alongside senior right side hitter Devon Derks. Anchoring Eau Claire's offensive prowess is a dominating defensive approach led by honorable mention NCVF All American Jared Kausou and experienced DS's Dominic Craig and Alex Kohlbeck. Eau Claire hopes to rely on their senior leadership, experience, and skill to another deep run in the 2018 NCVF national tournament.

After having some up and downs in the 2016-17 season, the UWEC Women's A team is ready to bounce back and have a great season! Several strong players graduated, but they have some very talented new players to go along with the 7 returners. UWEC started off the season with a home tournament during which they raised \$750 for the American Cancer Society and took home first place! This year's team has great personalities to match the talent and we are looking forward to having a blast at every tournament. Our goals for this season are to win the WVC State Tournament, to place in the Gold Bracket at the National Tournament, and to grow as players and as friends.

UWEC B figures to have an exciting season. Three upperclassmen return to lead the squad and they are joined by underclassmen with a lot of talent. Many of the players are versatile and have experience playing multiple positions. The Blugolds performed well at their first home tournament along with two other preseason tournaments placing in both Marquette and Mankato. Furthermore, they are anticipating pushing themselves and working together to achieve greatness this season. Some goals for the year include building trust in one other on the court and taking first place at the WVC state tournament!

**UW-Green Bay** - After last year's results, UWGB is very optimistic about the up-coming season with some of their key players returning. Abby Pfeiffer returns on the outside and figures to play all-the-way-around. In the middle, Sarah Belitz will once again be a force. Rounding out the returners and covering the backcourt Marissa Laes. Leading the newcomers is Paige Persha, will likely play a key role as a six rotation outside hitter. Allie Trautmiller, defensive specialist, and setter Kayla Butler-Paulson will also contribute to the team's improvement throughout the season.

After an up and down fall, experimenting with many different lineups the Phoenix are optimistic and ready to embrace the challenges they will face and look forward to the WVC season and attending Nationals in St. Louis, MO.

**UW-La Crosse** - After taking second place at the National tournament three years in a row, the women of UW-La Crosse are pushing for this to be the year they take home the gold. The A team has seven returners, and has welcomed three new freshmen to the squad, while the B team has four returners and six newcomers. They have competed and placed well in preseason tournaments and are excited to see what this season holds.

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The men will compete in Division 1 for WVC play and likely return to NCVF Nationals as a favorite in Division II.

**UW-Oshkosh** – The Titans begin a new era as long time coach/player Brian “Lumpy” Schaefer stepped aside to explore other professional opportunities. Taking the reins is Will Brydon, who won National Championships as a player and coach with UWO II. The Titans are set for another strong season this year and are looking to improve on their fifth place finish at nationals last year. They will have to fill several voids left by graduated players. Returning to the Division 1 team this season to run the offense is Sophomore Nick Davies, who will be joined by returning middles Nate Leitermann, Peter Nordel, and Tony D’Acquisto. This offensive core looks to dominate the net with the help of fellow returning pin hitters Brandon Schmidt and Sammy Pedersen. A strong offense needs a strong defense behind it, though, so the Titans will turn to Jake Martin and Sam Moua, also returners, to bolster their backrow play. Joining these 8 athletes are 2 new call-ups to the Division 1 team but no strangers to the program. Alex Basting and John Collins look to make their Division 1 debuts this season after strong performances as outside hitters on last year’s fifth place Division 2 squad. With a mix of youth and experience, the Titans stand poised for another championship run to add their seventh Division 1 championship this spring.

The Division 2 Titans will have a different look this year, as they will return just one player from last year’s team that placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 at Nationals. Sole returner Eli Miller looks to step into a new leadership role as he heads a group of young and hungry Titans looking to start a new chapter in UWO’s legacy. He will lead the backrow along with newcomer Tyler Boldt. Joining the team as pin hitters are Matt Aussem, a high flying first year player, Steve Seaman, and Michael Skora. Seaman moves up from last year’s Division 3 team, while Michael Skora will rejoin the team after a year off of school as he looks to build on his success from 2 years ago on the Division 3 team. Also on the pin will be Adam Branch, another first year player that looks to dominate on the right side with his block and effective swings. Rounding out the team are Eaven Mason, a former national champion with the Division 1 team, Steve Cotton, and Matt Pedersen, who are both moving up from last year’s Division 3 team, which took ninth at nationals. Steve brings experience and leadership in the middle, while Matt will run the offense from the setter’s position. These Titans may be young, but they are hungry and extremely talented. Look for them to try to top the pack of Division 2 contenders this season.

The Men’s Division 3 team will look to continue its tradition of success and improve on its ninth place finish at nationals a year ago. After back-to-back-to-back appearances in the WVC state final, this team has proven itself to be a consistent conference threat. With a mix of returners and newcomers, the team will look to form its identity early and continue its winning ways. Coming back for another year are pin hitters Andrew Shea and Joey Mack, both of whom look to add stability and strength to this position. In the middle, Reed Bogrand returns and continues to build on his growth from last year, where he quickly became one of the top conference middles. On the defensive side, the Titans return Danny Mirda and Dave Edelman, and they will look to help provide a consistent backrow that keeps the team in games. Danny will also see some time at setter this season as he works to run the offense with newcomer Thomas

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Kelly, Nate Dodge, Patrick Meadie, and Michael Lemmens join the Titans this year as pin hitters that will carry on the Oshkosh tradition of being strong top to bottom in this position. Rounding out the squad is the final newcomer, Isaac Conlon, who will step into the middle role to help his team by bringing a strong block and smart shots. This team will try to continue its tradition of success in the WVC.

On the women's side the Titans will once again field two teams, one in each division of the WVC women's conference.

**UW-Milwaukee** – The Panthers women's team has eight returning players and seven new players, losing one to graduation and a few others who are no longer in school. After a successful fall semester the team is growing very close and that team chemistry is figures to lead to more wins. The team's goal is to compete at all times with high effort and look to improve on last year's finish at nationals. It's hard to pick out key players on this team as they feature a number of well-rounded athletes. Don't sleep on UWM this season!

The UWM II Men will compete in division 3.

**UW-Platteville** – Key returners for the Platteville women include Bridget Nolden, Alisia Newport and Maya Grueneberg. New members likely to contribute are Sidney Morales and Kennedy Herbsleb. The Pioneers look to improve from an inconsistent fall through the WVC season and will attend nationals.

Platteville's men's team returns in division 2.

**UW-River Falls** - After a great performance at the 2017 NCVF National Tournament, placing 3rd in Women's Division II, the UW-River Falls Women's A team is looking to be a serious contender in the WVC. Juniors Gabby Deden and Becca Schmitz will be seen as this year's leaders for their offense as setter and middle blocker, respectively. Allyssa Frahm and Olivia Peters will be key for the Falcons' defensive. UWRF will also be looking at the incoming freshmen as assets to the team's success. The women expect to place favorably in the WVC State Championships and at Nationals again in 2018 play.

For a second year, the Falcons will also compete with both an A and B team. The UWRF Women's B team will again be led by sophomore setter, Lexi Midtlien, and senior outside, Gabi Read. They will also be joined by several other returners and a large freshmen class. This team is scrappy and works hard to get every ball up and over the net. With a strong offense and defense, this team will be sure to make some eyes turn.

River Falls men return in division 2.

**UW-Stevens Point** - This year the Pointers are looking to be a strong contender for the WVC State Championship. Although they lost seniors Rachel Gasper and Emily Peterson, from last year, they feel they have a strong team that continues to come together and fight through

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tough moments. Seniors Brooke Gilbertson and Gabby Thomas will help lead the team through their positive court presence, consistent swings, and knowledge of the game. Sophomore hitter Mollie Tennesen will help carry the team as a vocal energizer and powerful attacker. Junior setter Val Every will help dictate the speed of our game and holds on-court leadership and court awareness. Stevens Point is looking forward to a successful season with many returners and talented freshmen.

Stevens Point JV took 3rd at last year's state tournament, and are looking to win it all this year. Although they lose Brooke Gilbertson and libero, Ally Stanek, from last year they are confident in their skills and ability to come together as a team. Middle hitter Maggie Kramer will help to lead the team with her experience and powerful swings. Freshman hitter Sarah Schmidt will also help lead the team with her strong leadership skills, defense and forceful attacks. Junior setter Chelsea Martel will help lead the Pointers in matches with her smart decisions and calm court presence. They are excited for the season to begin so they can see how the returners and freshmen come together to find success and fun this season

The UWSP Men return in division 2.

**UW-Stout** – Last season the Blue Devils had two teams for the first time in club history. This was very beneficial to the club as they graduated almost the entire varsity team. Members from JV last year have moved up to varsity to fill the void. The key returners are Evan Menke, Cody Smith and Scott Berg, the starting outsides and libero respectively. A lot of new members make up most of the JV team as well as some of the varsity. Both teams played together for the first time Dec 2nd at UWEC and look to build on that experience with a coach for the first time in numerous years. Stout plans to field one team at Nationals in St. Louis.

The UW-Stout Women's Volleyball Club has some key returners for the 2017-2018 season. They have setter Maddie Ramich returning and liberos Jessie Geske and Chase Fronk who piled up the digs last season. They also have middle blockers Kierstyn Campbell, Olivia Burghardt, and Kareese Jiskra who have only improved since last year. They will all play key roles this season along with all other returners. The team has some new players with lots of potential, Chandler Zwiefelhofer and Elle Schultz, being two of the standouts. As an outside hitter and defensive specialist, respectively, they will be the key to this team's success, along with all the other new members of this club. Both A and B teams did really well in their fall tournaments and can only improve from this point forward. You will definitely see this team at nationals in St. Louis this year ready to go and improve throughout the WVC season.

**UW-Whitewater** – The Warhawks return an experienced team this year; the lone newcomer is a freshman outside who try and fill the shoes of senior rightside lost to graduation. Defense figures to be a strong point as both DS's and the starting libero from a year ago return. This fall UW-W competed in two tournaments as well as a showcase for Badger Region Junior club players, where they scrimmaged Marquette University. Those in attendance appreciated the high level of play and competitive nature of the exhibition match between two of the WVC's

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perennial powerhouse teams. They wrapped up fall competition with a strong second place finish at their own Winter Warhawk Open. Strong offense and stellar defense led to morning sweeps in all three pool play matches. They went on to defeat UW-Stevens Point B in the quarters and UW-Stevens Point A in the semis to make the championship match, where they had a showdown with UW-Oshkosh II. In a back and forth match, the Warhawks finally ran out of steam, but showed the promise that they will be a team to be reckoned with this season. Whitewater plans to hold a second tryout early in second semester to further bolster their roster as they look to make a competitive run through the WVC season and make some noise at Nationals in St. Louis.

The lady Warhawks head into the 2018 regular season without All-Conference middle, Sydney Toon along with a few other impact players from a season ago and will have some very big shoes to fill. A lot of new players are working hard to earn a starting spot this season. One to look out for is Jamie Kvasnicka who comes to the team as a junior from Muskego, WI and has instantly become one their go to hitters. Martina Reuter is another newcomer to watch. She arrives via UW-Baraboo where she was a standout player and made the 2016 All-Tournament team. She has the ability to play multiple positions, but will likely contribute in the middle for Whitewater.

**Winona State** - The WSU club volleyball team hopes to continue their competitive nature in the WVC this season. Last year the A team placed 3rd in the WVC conference, took 1st at the State Championships, and proceeded to take 5th at nationals in the D1 AA division. After graduating many valuable players, the A team will be relying heavily on new players. Among these new players are freshman Hailyn Kittleson, an outside hitter, Brynn Barthel, a middle, and junior setter, Mariah Hansen. The A team will also be led by returners Chanda Riedemann, an outside hitter, Kena Hinker, a middle, and Bekka Baures, a defensive player. With this new talent and the returners, the A team is aiming to place in the gold bracket at nationals and in the top three in the WVC.

The B team this year is captained by sophomores Elise Arnas and Cassie Bell. Due to the B team's very young roster, they'll look to returners and captains for leadership. The returners lead the team on the court with help from a strong defensive presence and smart hitters. The B team hopes to place within the top tier of the JV division of the WVC.

Winona State Men will compete in division 2.

### **STAY UP TO DATE WITH WVC ACTION & NEWS:**

Official Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsinvolleyballconference/?fref=ts>

WVC Alumni Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wvcalumngroup/>

WVC Website: <http://wvcweb.org/>

Badger Region Volleyball: <http://badgervolleyball.org/wisconsin-volleyball-conference-wvc/>

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***CONGRATULATIONS to the following WVC athletes that were named All-Americans at the 2017 NCVF National Championships in Kansas City, MO:***

**Men's Division I**

Chandler North (Marquette University) - 1st  
 Dani Rivera (Marquette University) - 1st  
 Travis Hudson (UW-Oshkosh) - 1st  
 Peter Nordel (UW-Oshkosh) - HM

**Men's Division II**

Pierce Moriarty (UW-Eau Claire) - 1st  
 Geoffrey Snyder (UW-River Falls) - 1st  
 Adam Baltz (UW-La Crosse) - 2nd  
 Mikhail Butler (UW-River Falls) - 2nd  
 Sawyer Nennig (UW-Eau Claire) - 2nd  
 Alex Bartelme (UW-La Crosse) - HM  
 Jared Kashou (UW-Eau Claire) - HM  
 Peter Khang (UW-River Falls) - HM  
 Garrett Schilling (UW-La Crosse) - HM

**Men's Division III**

Tony Mack (UW-Oshkosh II) - 1st  
 Adam Landgraf (UW-Oshkosh II) - 2nd  
 Braeden Melton (UW-Oshkosh II) - 2nd  
 Quinn Arndt (UW-Oshkosh III) - HM  
 Evan Crosby (Marquette University II) - HM  
 Matt Pedersen (UW-Oshkosh III) - HM  
 Mike Starzec (UW-Oshkosh II) - HM

**Women's Division IAA**

Hailey Brown (Winona State University) - 1st  
 Rachel Gasper (UW-Stevens Point) - 2nd  
 Emily Peterson (UW-Stevens Point) - 2nd  
 Molly Lechelt (Winona State University) - HM  
 Mollie Tennesen (UW-Stevens Point) - HM

**Women's Division II**

Alli Duley (UW-La Crosse) - 1st  
 Bre Nedden (UW-La Crosse) - 1st  
 Maddie Ramich (UW-Stout) - 1st  
 Becca Schmitz (UW-River Falls) - 1st  
 Tori Chell (UW-Stout) - HM  
 Gabby Deden (UW-River Falls) - HM  
 Nicole Johnson (UW-Oshkosh) - HM  
 Laura Peterson (UW-River Falls) - HM

